

Miles Copeland
~~*Original Lockheed*~~
CIA & JAPAN
~~*Kodama*~~

Letters to the Editor

Lockheed Confusions

Sir. On a visit to Washington a couple of weeks ago I found that there is so much confusion over what Lockheed did and did not do in the way of corrupting the rest of the world that the drive to clean up international business practices may sputter to a halt. It saddens me to see one of my favourite reporters, Murray Sayle, add to the misinformation.

In his NS article of 14 May he says that 'agencies of the Central Intelligence Committee, forerunner of the CIA,' arrested Kodama. There has never been such an organisation. Kodama was arrested by the US Army's counter-intelligence corps, the 'CIC', an organisation of sergeants and corporals roughly similar to the British 'FSP' which operated openly, had no agents, and performed simple security functions. It was in no sense a forerunner of today's CIA, nor was it in any way connected with the CIA's predecessor organisation the OSS - which, it happens, was kept out of Japan by General MacArthur.

Kodama was in no sense a 'war criminal'. He was put in Sugamo Prison because he was in an 'automatic arrest category' by virtue of the position he held, not because of any dossier on him. The only information in US military intelligence files at the time of Japan's surrender was the fact that he had been a 'contact' (not quite an 'agent') of Paul Blum's 'Chrysanthemum' group which operated, first, under the American military attaché before Pearl Harbour and later, under General Willoughby when he became G-2 on MacArthur's staff. Kodama was released as soon as his identity was known.

Finally, Mr Sayle has made uncharacteristically loose use of such epithets as 'underworld' and 'gangster'. True, we called Japanese right-wingers all sorts of names during the war and in some circles it is fashionable to do so now. It happens, however, that those whom Mr Sayle mentions in his article had a great deal to do with Japan's spectacular post-war recovery. Maybe Britain could do with a few like them.

MILES COPELAND

21 Marlborough Place
 London NW8